

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2012 DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA
PROGRAM (DV-2012)**

This document is a brief version that contains the essential instructions for the DV-2012 related to applicants born in Cuba. More information is available at the website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html. The annual DV program makes visas available to persons meeting simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated, random lottery drawing chooses selectees for DVs. The visas are distributed among six geographic regions, with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the period of the past five years. Within each region, no single country may receive more than seven percent of the available DVs in any one year.

You must list your spouse even if you are currently separated from him/her, unless you are legally separated (i.e., there is a written agreement recognized by a court or a court order). If you are legally separated or divorced, you do not need to list your former spouse. **You must list ALL your children who are unmarried and under 21 years of age at the time of your initial electronic DV (E-DV) entry**, whether they are your natural children, your spouse's children, or children you have formally adopted in accordance with the laws of your country. List all children 21 years of age at the time of your electronic entry, including those who are U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents, **even if they no longer reside with you or you do not intend for them to immigrate under the DV program**. Failure to complete the form in its entirety will disqualify the applicant.

DV REGISTRATION PERIOD

Entries for the DV-2012 DV lottery must be submitted electronically between noon, Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, October 5, 2010, and noon, Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Applicants may access the electronic DV Entry Form (E-DV) at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays. No entries will be accepted after noon, EST, on November 3, 2010.

A successfully registered entry will result in a **confirmation screen** containing your name and a unique confirmation number **which you should print and retain**. Starting May 1, 2011, you will be able to check the status of your DV-2012 entry by returning to the DV website and using your confirmation number to view "Entry Check Status". This will be the sole means of informing you of your selection for DV-2012.

Receipt of more than one entry per person will disqualify the person from registration, regardless of the source of the entry.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

The applicant must fulfill the education or work experience requirements of the DV program. The law and regulations require that every entrant must have at least a high school education or its equivalent or have, within the past five years, two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two year's training or experience. A high school education or equivalent is defined as successful completion of a twelve-year course of elementary and secondary education in the United States or successful completion in another country of a formal course of elementary and secondary education comparable to a high school education in the United States. Only formal courses of study meet this

requirement; correspondence programs or equivalency certificates (such as the G.E.D.) are not acceptable. Documentary proof of education or work experience must be presented to the consular officer at the time of the visas interview. Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be disqualified immediately.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH (Image)

The image file must adhere to the following compositional and technical specifications and can be produced in one of the following ways: taking a new digital image or using a digital scanner to scan a photograph. Entrants may test their photos for suitability through the photo validator link on the e-DV website before submitting their entries.

- The person must directly face the camera.
- The background of the photograph must be neutral and of clear color. Photographs with very dark backgrounds or drawings will not be accepted.
- The photograph must be in focus.
- Photographs in which the person being photographed is wearing sunglasses or other items that detract from the face will not be accepted.

The presented/displayed digital images must have the following specifications or the system will reject the electronic request automatically.

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATIONS:

Taking a new digital photo:

- **Image file format:** The image must be in JPEG (Joint Photographic Expert Group) format.
- **Image file size:** The maximum file size of the image is 240 kilobytes.
- **Image resolution:** Minimum acceptable dimensions are 600 pixels (width) x 600 pixels (height). Height must equal width.
- **Image depth of color:** 24-bit color. [Note: Color photographs are required. 24-bit black and white or 8-bit images are **not** acceptable.]

Scanning a submitted photograph:

- **Impression size:** Two inches by two inches (50mm x 50mm)
- **Color of the impression:** The image must be in 24-bit color mode.

Scanning specifications:

- **Scanner resolution:** Scanned at a resolution of at least 300 dots per inch (dpi).
- **Image file format:** It must be in JPEG format.
- **Image file size:** The maximum image file size is 240 kilobytes.
- **Image resolution:** 600 x 600 pixels.
- **Image depth of color:** 24-bit color. [Note that black and white, monochrome, or grayscale images will not be accepted.]

IMPORTANT NOTE:

No fee is charged for the electronic lottery entry in the annual DV program. The U.S. Government employs no outside consultants or private services to operate the DV program. Any intermediaries or others who offer assistance to prepare DV entries do so without the authority or consent of the U.S. Government. Use of any outside intermediary or assistance to prepare a DV entry is entirely at the entrant's discretion.